[29th November 1928

(*b*) whether the inundation resulted in the loss of human lives and cattle and if so, what is the extent of the loss ;

(*c*) whether a number of houses including some upstair houses fell down and if so, how many ;

(*d*) whether goods were washed away to the value of some thousands and if so, to what extent ;

(*e*) whether the hospital with all the stock of medicines was washed away ;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that some dead bodies were lying in the streets unlooked for, for some days ;

(*g*) whether foodstuffs on account of this devastation rose very high in prices and if so, to what extent ; and

(*h*) what measures the Government have taken to give relief ?

A.—(*a*), (*b*), (*c*), (*d*) & (*h*) The hon. Member is referred to the report of the Collector of East Godavari, dated 9th November 1928, and the Government orders on the subject that have been placed on the table of the House [a] which contain the information in possession of the Government.

(*e*), (*f*) & (*g*) It is presumed the hon. Member refers to Tuni. A report has been called for on these points.

Inland Waterways

Restrictions on vessels plying in the Godavari river.

*891 Q.—Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu : With reference to the answer given to question No. 548 on 12th October 1928 regarding vessels plying in the Godavari river, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Chief Engineer's report has been examined by the Government and whether orders have been passed thereon ;

(*b*) whether any provisional arrangement has been made to prevent danger to the passenger traffic, pending final arrangements to be made by Government ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the capsizing of the boats in 1927 was due mainly to their insufficient weight and tonnage ; and

(*d*) whether the Government would, until final orders are passed with reference to the introduction of the Steam Vessels Act, consider the desirability of provisionally imposing restrictions to the effect that vessels, steam-launches of a tonnage below 20, would not be allowed to ply on the river ?

A.—(*a*) The report is under consideration.

(*b*) Instructions have been issued to the District Magistrate to the effect that pending the issue of orders on the question of the measures to be adopted for the better regulation of river traffic he should take such steps as may be necessary to prevent accidents under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, for example, if during the monsoon season when the weather is bad, the District Magistrate considers that a steam launch

[a] Laid on the table on 26th November 1928.

or other craft plying in the river is in a state unfit to carry passengers he may issue a temporary prohibitory order under section 144 of the Code.

(c) Only one accident in 1927 came to the notice of Government and that was the capsizing of a steam launch near Gutala on 12th May 1927. The accident in this case was mainly due to a storm of exceptional severity as will be seen from the report placed on the table of this House on 27th August 1927, in reply to question No. 326 by the hon. Member. The launch was reported to have a displacement of about 25 tons.

(d) The Government are not aware of any reason that would justify the adoption of the hon. Members' suggestion.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"May I know if the question of applying the Inland Steam Vessels Act to the bed of the river has been dropped or is still under consideration ?"

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"I should like to have notice to give a definite answer, Sir."

Boat traffic in the Godavari river lower down the anicut.

892 Q.—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : With reference to the answer to question No. 549 answered on 12th October 1928 regarding boat traffic on the Godavari river lower down the anicut, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report referred to in the answer has been called for and whether it has been received ; and

(b) if so, whether the same will be placed on the Council table ?

A.—(a) A report has been received from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation which has been referred to the District Magistrate for his opinion.

(b) The report [a] is laid on the table.

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"Since the report says there are no restrictions over the river bed, may I know whether the Government thinks of a method of exercising due control over the boats plying lower down the anicut ?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"This is not the stage for giving reasons."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—"I am only asking whether they thought of a method for exercising control over the boats."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"It is not admissible."

Irrigation

Action taken on the plans and estimates for the Boradaballi project.

* 893 Q.—Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the action taken on the plans and estimates for the Boradaballi project in the Goomsur division of the Ganjam district ;

(b) the amount of the estimate ;

[a] Printed as Appendix VIII on page 533 infra.